

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 8, 2003

Dea E. M.C.

## **PATENT**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of                              | ) Oroup Art Unit Unknown |
|---|--------------------------|
| Dean E. McConnell                                 | )<br>) Examiner: Unknown |
| Serial No.: 10/631,188                            | )                        |
| Filed: July 31, 2003                              | )                        |
| For: THERMAL JOINT AND BONE<br>COMPRESSION SYSTEM | )<br>)<br>)              |

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of candor and good faith required of each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a U.S. patent application, Applicant hereby discloses the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO Form SB/08. A copy of each of the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO Form SB/08 is enclosed. Applicant requests that these document(s) be considered and made of record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits and no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the reference(s) disclosed are, or are considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Respectfully submitted,

Dean E. McConnell

Registration No. 44,916

Attachments: Form PTO SB/08

Copies of Reference(s)

Dean E. McConnell, Esq. 9609 Conifer Court Fishers, IN 46038

Telephone: (317) 570-8420

PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006, OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Application Number 10/631,188 Filing Date July 31, 2003 First Named Inventor Dean E. McConnell Art Unit Not Known Examiner Name Not Known Attorney Docket Number

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

| U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |  |                                |  |   |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials*  | Cite<br>No.1 | Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (# known)</sup> | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                        |              | US-5,466,250   | 11/14/1995                     | Johnson, Jr. et al.                                |   |
|                        |              | us-5,441,533   | 08/15/1995                     | Johnson et al.                                     |   |
|                        |              | us-5,413,142   | 05/09/1995                     | Johnson et al.                                     |   |
|                        |              | US-5,230,335   | 07/27/1993                     | Johnson, Jr. et al.                                |   |
|                        |              | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        | <u> </u>     | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |              | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        | İ            | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |              | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |              | US-  |                                |  |   |
| A.M 1                  |              | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |              | US-  |                                |  |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |  |   |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|---|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No.1 | Foreign Patent Document  Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> 'Kind Code <sup>5</sup> ( <i>if known</i> ) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY          | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | Т <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |              |  |   |  |   | ll             |
|                          |              |  |   | ***************************************            |   |                |
|                          | ļ            |  | *************************************** |  | ***************************************   | H              |
|                          |              |  |   |  | ***************************************   |                |
|                          |              |  |   |  |   | Ш              |
|                          |              |  |   |  |   |                |

| Date<br>Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.